

St. Mary's Bay Protectors





St. Mary's Bay Protectors

Presentation Outline

1. Who we are and why we are here
2. What are our concerns? Research and examples (local, national and global) and threats to our coastal communities
3. Direct concerns from Commercial Fisheries
4. Our requests to Council for Action, Disclosure and Transparency
5. Questions from Council

St. Mary's Bay Protectors



SMBP

Who we are?

- Our mandate
- What has prompted us to organize?
- Three (3) major areas of concerns:
 1. Environmental
 2. Economic
 3. Community

Cermaq

- Who is Cermaq?
- Cermaq and proposal for open net fin fish farming (aka Salmon farming)
- What is the application? What's consent and engagement mean?



Our Community's Concerns

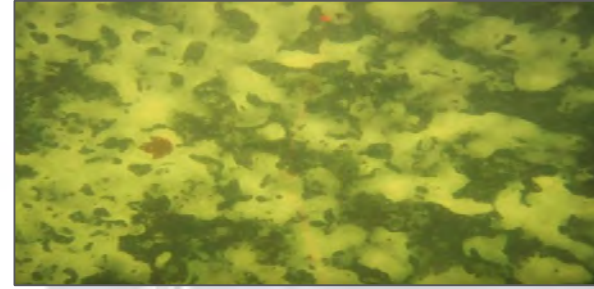
We believe that open pen finfish farming is an unsustainable industry that harms our marine environment and threatens our coastal communities.

- Pesticides, chemicals
 - Sea lice
- Disease
 - Antibiotic use
- Pollution
 - Feces, effluent drift
 - Effect on existing habitat, such as eelgrass
- Threat to wild fish stocks, and other marine species:
 - Lobster, clams, whales
 - Escapes, interbreeding, pressure on wild fish stocks for feed
 - Herring, mackerel, wild salmon
- Threat to existing fishery jobs/ industries
 - Lobster, Clams, Groundfish



Open-Pen Aquaculture is Harmful to Our Environment

- Increased suspended solids, turbidity and sedimentation from feces and food waste
- Nutrient loading (nitrogen, phosphorus)
- Degradation of water quality from hazardous materials
- Negative impacts to fish and fish habitat
- Disease transmission
- Invasive species, which could alter ecosystem dynamics
- Interference with traditional use of resources
- Disruptions of wildlife and wildlife habitat, including migratory birds and species at risk
- Impacts of odour and noise on humans



Source: Transport Canada. 2011. Environmental Assessment Screening Report for proposed sites in St. Mary's Bay

Mass Die-offs

- Clayoquot Sound British Columbia Nov. 2019, 200,000 algae bloom
- Tofino, BC
- ISA outbreak kills 600,000 salmon smolts in two N.S. farms 2018
- Newfoundland Sept. 2019 2.6M warm water, lack of oxygen, high density of fish
- Cold water kills 10,000 salmon at Cooke fish farm near Liverpool
- Norway
- Scotland
- Chile
- Sea lice



Commercial Fisheries

Lobster Fishery

District 33/34 account for 60% of all Lobster caught in the entirety of Atlantic Canada.

Lobster landings in our Region of Nova Scotia in 2018 totalled just over \$750 million.

Lobster is Nova Scotia's most valuable seafood export.

Scallop Fishery

Scallop capital of the world

Scallop Landings in 2017 totalled just over \$150 million

Ground Fishery/Other Fin Fish

2017 Value was \$5.4 Million for our Region of Nova Scotia

Impact of Aquaculture on Commercial Fisheries



Lobster Fishery

- Pesticides used to control the ever prevalent sea lice found on the salmon in farms, kills lobster.
- Lobsters catches have been proven to drop by 42% near aquaculture sites.
- Harmful algae blooms due to water quality problems have been linked to toxins in lobster, and mass die-offs in their own farms.
- There will be direct displacement of lobster fisherman in St. Mary's Bay; making other areas of the district overcrowded.

Scallop Fishery

- Displacement of fisherman leads to increased pressure on healthy stocks
- Scallops develop thin shells and mildewed meat near aquaculture operations
- Starfish blooms near aquaculture sites affect stock negatively.

Ground Fishery/ Other Fin Fish

- Lights, noise and chemicals deflect fish schools and negatively affect fish growth. Especially herring.

Impacts on Tourism

Tourism in Nova Scotia generated **\$2.61 billion** in 2018.

Digby was ranked as having the **third highest** capture rate for all of the Annapolis Valley and Bay of Fundy Shore.

What bring tourists to our Region and Nova Scotia in General? Where are they spending their money?

- Seafood
- Whales
- Natural Beauty



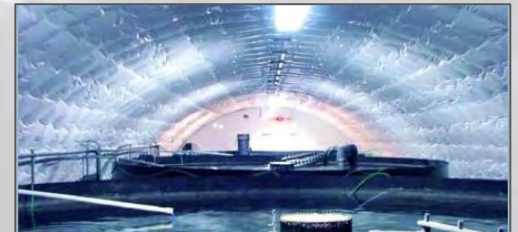
A Sustainable Alternative

The federal Liberal government has pledged to end open pen salmon farming in the west coast by 2025.

Land based fish farming is practised around the world, including here in Nova Scotia.

Sustainable Blue, in Centre Burlington

- Drug and chemical free
- All organic effluent collected and stored for future use as agricultural fertilizer
- Disease free - no threat to wild species
- No impact on local marine environments
- 95-98% of water used is recirculated



We Call Upon Council to:

Council Vote and Public Statement

1. We call upon the Municipality of Digby Council hold a recorded public vote by Council members on a resolution opposing the application, approval and operation of any Cermaq proposal for marine-based open net fish farming in St. Mary's Bay.
2. We call upon the Council to hold this vote at their next scheduled Council Meeting, and that the vote and resolution be highlighted on the web home page of the Municipality of Digby.
3. We call upon the Council to endorse the SMBP petition and put it prominently online on the Municipality of Digby web home page.
4. We call upon the Council and its members, themselves to hold well-publicized and public debates in our coastal communities beginning in January 2020 so that the citizens of this county can be fully informed as to the implications of the Cermaq Canada application.

We Call Upon Council to:

Accountability

5. That all Council member and Municipal administrative staff to publicly and immediately declare any conflict of interest concerning Cermaq and/or with any other aquaculture enterprise/business/investments/financial arrangement that they, or Immediate family members, stand to directly or indirectly profit in any way. This full disclosure pertains to current or future activities of any aquaculture activities, land-based or marine-based.
6. That Council members and Municipal administrative staff immediately disclose past dealings/communications/meeting with Cermaq, and that future communications be a matter of public record.
7. That Municipal support staff not facilitate in any way the business plan of Cermaq or any other aquaculture (fish farming) enterprise or business/investments.

We Call Upon Council to:

Transparency

8. Subsequent to any meeting, the immediate online publication of Council minutes and Committee of the Whole minutes (including video recording) via a visible and easily accessible link from the Municipality of Digby web Home Page.
9. A two-week advance visible online publication of Council meeting dates and agendas and Committee of the Whole (COTW) meetings on the Homepage of the Municipality of Digby web Home Page, including information on making public presentations to Municipal Committees and Council.